

Editorial staff

Col. Doug Richardson 48th Fighter Wing commander

Capt. Patrick Ryder Public affairs chief

MSgt. Donald S. Martin Public affairs NCOIC

SrA. Sarah Franco Editor

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On the cover

Photo by SrA. Jeff Capenos

Barry Waite prepares some peppers for the salad bar at the 48th Services Squadron Knights Table. For more information about the dining facility and its programs, turn to pages 14 - 15.

Bad weather can cause problems

By Col. Rulon L. Brough
48th Support Group commander

Each day, more than 2,600 students travel on 70 buses and several taxis between their homes and one of four schools at RAFs Lakenheath and Feltwell.

As we enter the bad-weather months, it's likely there will be fog, high winds or snow delays and cancellations.

When there's a delay or cancellation, it's important parents get the word as soon as possible, because it's their responsibility to have a realistic plan for child care.

Every morning, I receive weather- and driving-condition reports from the base command post. These reports help me evaluate the safety environment for our school buses to ensure a safe journey for all students. Even though conditions may not seem hazardous in some outlying communities where families reside, the safety factor can be seriously degraded in other areas where school buses travel.

When I think the conditions warrant a fog, snow or ice delay, I instruct the command post to notify the vehicle op-

erations dispatcher before 5:30 a.m. In turn, the dispatcher notifies bus officials before 6 a.m., and local radio stations receive the same information. School employees are alerted via a telephone recall.

With the possibility of weather delays and school cancellations, I urge parents to have a realistic plan to care for their children. Existing child-care facilities can't accommodate an influx of more than 800 additional children due to inclement weather.

Parents must make arrangements with neighbors, local child-care providers, friends or employers to ensure the safety and care of their family members.

Parents can learn the status of school openings and transportation delays by calling the command-post recording at Ext. 3541, commercially (01638) 523541. The recording is updated daily by 6 a.m. People can also call the RAF Mildenhall command-post recording at 89-3541, commercial (01638) 543541.

Parents may also listen to BBC Radio Suffolk (FM 104.5, 95.5 and 103.9), SGR Radio (AM 1070/FM 97.1), BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (FM 96) and Q103 (FM 103) beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call Ext. 2324, fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number and full APO mailing address. Names will be kept confidential.



D Richardson

48th Fighter Wing commander

Status of sooms in dorms

What is the current status of the dorms? Are we going to single rooms or is it going to stay the same? Is the basic-allowance-for-quarters list going to be opened up?

We're going to single rooms. I just approved 50 people on the BAQ waiting list to move. This will allow some members to move one to a room in central-latrine dorms. Next,

we must find space for about 150 E-4s at RAFs Lakenheath and Mildenhall. Currently, there are about 90 community homes available to meet this need.

We are working with Mildenhall to develop a plan to implement the next stage which authorizes all E-4s to have a single room by the end of this fiscal year. This stage is more complex. Given the 1,900 unit family housing deficit, it is unlikely that all E-4s will have a private dorm room or be offered BAQ before summer 1998. By this time, I'm optimistic that more than 300 new dormitory rooms will be renovated or constructed.

Catalog wrappers at post office

The current post-office policy of taking catalog wrappers off catalogues to notify people that they have received them seems wrong to me. Is there anything we can do about that?

It's not policy, but DOD guidance. It saves countless man hours, is efficient and makes sense.

The guidance says: "When delivering mail-order catalogs, place catalog wrappers in the receptacles in lieu of PS Forms 3907, Notice to Call at Window. When the patron presents the wrapper, deliver the catalog to the patron. Tear up or line through address element to prevent reuse." IAW DOD 4525.6M, Vol. II, Chapter 5, 506.4, USAFE

Sup 1, 506.4. This procedure speeds mail delivery, something we all find advantageous.

Free ride

I want to emphasize the importance of military members helping those in need. When my car broke down, someone saw me having trouble, picked me up and took me to work. I want to express my appreciation.

Thanks for your call and I'm glad your experience was positive. I would, however, caution that accepting a ride or assistance is not always what stranded motorists should do, particularly at night, in isolated areas and if alone. It's better to stay in the vehicle with the window rolled down an inch and ask anyone who stops to call for help. Not everyone is a true "Samaritan" in today's society.

WIC program in U.K.

I believe having the Women, Infants and Children program established here would add to the already outstanding support system in place. Is there any way this issue can be addressed?

The Women, Infants and Children program is a state-run program that is congressionally funded through Federal Block Grants. In the continental United

See Action lines page 4